

investigation of the nests of the Redwings in the vicinity showed them to be either empty or only one or two young in the several nests which I located. This lead me to believe that the Grackles may have carried off some of the nestlings, for the Redwings usually have from three to five young to a nest.—J. A. WEBER, *Palisades Park, N. J.*

**Rusty Blackbirds** (*Euphagus carolinus*) **wintering in Essex Co., Mass.**—A flock of Rusty Blackbirds spent most, if not all, the past winter in Danvers, Mass. This seems remarkable considering the great severity of January and February, 1912.

Mr. Brewster records a flock of this species in Brookline, February 8, 1879. Mr. A. C. Conrey noted one on Concord turnpike, Concord, January 22, 1905. Howe & Allen, 1901, give February 20 as earliest, except the accidental February 8, and in Townsend's Birds of Essex Co., March 14 is given.

I first saw a flock of eight individuals during a snowstorm on January 29, feeding on a large pile of manure close to Burley St. On January 30, they were in the same place. I could not find out whether anyone had seen them before this. On February 6, Mr. G. A. Peabody saw twelve on his estate near the same spot, and on February 7, he counted eighteen. I looked up the flock again on February 18, and also counted eighteen birds. They were getting most of their food, apparently, from a large pile of horse manure. From that date until March 19, Mr. Peabody tells me he constantly saw the birds at the same place.—J. C. PHILLIPS, *Wenham, Mass.*

**Lark Sparrow** (*Chondestes grammacus grammacus*) **in Cuba.**—On December 12, 1911, I took in a "potrero" on the San Carlos Estate, Guantanamo, Cuba, a female specimen of the Lark Sparrow in very fine plumage. This is the first Cuban record for this species. The specimen was kindly compared and identified for me by Mr. W. DeW. Miller at the American Museum of Natural History.—CHAS. T. RAMSDEN, *Guantanamo, Cuba.*

**Unusual Nest Site of the Cardinal.**—I have known of Catbirds, Phoebe, Robins and Hummingbirds building and rearing their young in vines on porches or verandas; but it was not until the other day (May 11, 1912) that my attention was called to the fact of a Cardinal Grosbeak (*C. c. cardinalis*) exhibiting such implicit confidence in man.

This spring, a pair of these birds built their nest in a small, white wisteria vine running up some wire-netting on the porch of Mr. G. W. H. Soehner at 3436 Seventeenth Street, N. W., Washington, D. C., very near my own home. On the morning of the 13th of May, they completed the somewhat flimsy nest, and one egg was laid. A Purple Grackle, which had undoubtedly watched the entire proceedings, stole the egg a few hours after it had been deposited, and I doubt whether the Cardinals will return.—R. W. SHUFELDT, *Washington, D. C.*

**Cliff Swallow** (*Petrochelidon lunifrons* Say) — **A Cuban Record.**— I beg to report the taking of a male specimen of the Cliff Swallow on November 11, 1911. It was flying with others of this species in a band of Barn Swallows (*Hirundo erythrogastra*), quite early that morning, over abandoned cane fields of the San Carlos Estate, Guantanamo, Cuba. This I believe is the first Cuban record for the species.— CHAS. T. RAMSDEN, *Guantanamo, Cuba.*

**The Connecticut Warbler in Central Park, New York City.**— I was fortunate enough to find an individual of the Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*) in Central Park on May 16. The bird was a male in curious plumage, as there was not the usual amount of slate-gray on the breast. At first sight I thought it was a Nashville Warbler, but soon noticed it walking on the ground, with its tail up in the air, and then obtained a view of its breast. It was absurdly tame, and was within eight feet of me, when first observed. During the day I showed it to about ten bird students. Mr. W. deW. Miller, of the American Museum of Natural History, came over in the afternoon, and four of us leaned in a row on a fence, while the bird walked unconcernedly around catching flies, not more than 15 feet from us. We were able to make out every detail, including the elongated tail-coverts. Part of the time the bird was so close that I was unable to focus on it with my binoculars. The Warbler remained in the Park in the rhododendron bushes for six days, walking about frequently in the open. This species is apparently a very rare spring migrant along the Atlantic Coast.— LUDLOW GRISCOM, *New York City.*

**Type of the Genus *Saxicola*.** In the April number of 'The Auk', p. 271, in commenting upon Mr. Gregory Mathews' discussion of the type of the genus *Saxicola*, I insisted that Gray's designation of *S. ænanthe* as the type settled the matter. While this conclusion is correct when we consider only the data presented by Mr. Mathews in the January Ibis, I entirely overlooked another paper (Novitates Zoologicae, XVIII, June, 1911, p. 20), in which he calls attention to the earlier designation by Swainson in 1827, of *Motacilla rubicola*. This, of course, alters the situation and renders necessary the use of *Saxicola* for the Chats (*Pratincola* of authors) while *Ænanthe*, as stated by Mr. Mathews, will have to be used for the Wheatears.— WITMER STONE, *Acad. Nat. Sciences, Philadelphia.*

**Two Interesting Records for Canada.**— **Arquatella maritima couesi** (Ridg.) ALEUTIAN SANDPIPER. In going over the collections of the Geological Survey in the Museum, I find three specimens of this form of the Purple Sandpiper taken by Mr. Wm. Spreadborough at Clayquot, Vancouver Island, B. C., May 11, 1907. The subspecific determination was made by Dr. Jonathan Dwight who remarks that they are "undoubtedly *couesi*" though darker than the typical coloration and